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MAR 9 1962

THE QUESTION BOX

Senate Gives Pilot Powers

Francis Gary Powers appeared before a Senate grilling in Washington this week, after having earlier met in closed session with the CIA.

The result: the CIA told Congress the U-2 spy pilot had "lived up to the terms of his employment and instructions" and gave him a clean bill of health.

The Senate, hearing Powers tell how a strange orange colored explosion had wrecked his plane deep inside Russia, and hearing of his trial and captivity, also exonerated the pilot from any blame.

The Herald Courier's state editor, Curwood Garrett, yesterday interviewed persons in Norton, Va., found out that a welcome for Gary Powers is being planned (date not yet set), and got a lively, favorable response to his exoneration.

Back in Bristol, reporter Ron Miller queried Bristolians on the same question.

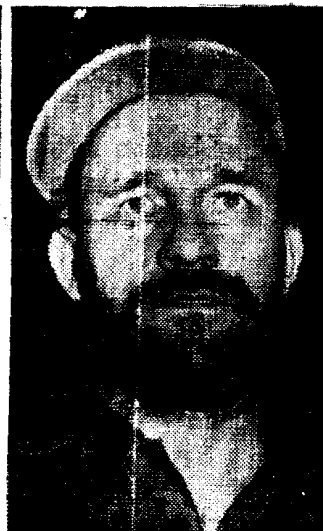
The question:

What do you think of Gary Powers of Pound, Va.?

A Clean Slate, How About You?



B. E. BALL, mayor of Norton: "I never doubted Mr. Powers' loyalty. We are all as happy as can be that he has been exonerated from all blame by the investigation. . . He did what he was supposed to do, but he is not in the hero class like John Glenn and others."



CHARLIE DANIELS, president, Wise County Chamber of Commerce: "If he had been flying under military conditions, he would have been the most decorated man in this section of the country. We are hoping to have an official welcome in every town in Wise County when he returns."



PRES ATKINS, Norton newspaper publisher: "I never had any reason to feel that he hadn't done his job properly. I feel that he was working within bounds. A welcome when he returns will be appropriate."



GAYNELL BOYD, seamstress, Route 5, Bristol Virginia: "I think Mr. Powers did the very best he could have for his country. He showed me and many others a lot of courage. You know it took a brave man to fly that plane in the first place."



ROBERT F. PHIPPS, order clerk, 619 Vance Street: "I think that Powers did the only logical thing—at least the only logical thing under those circumstances. He really shows that he is a true American and a very courageous person."



ELLA LOUISE ROWE, student, King College: "I suppose he wasn't really true to his country. Also, I can't understand how the U2 plane was downed because he was flying at such high altitude. He must have been scared, but I suppose a lot of people would have been."



DORIS BONHAM, secretary, 1103 Highland Avenue: "I think Powers did everything he could to help his country. When he was testifying last week, he was trying to tell people that it wasn't really as bad in Russia as many think. . . I can't figure why they're going to give him back pay."